At this time Sanford's urban development extends deeply into only three of these six drainage basins: The City Limits stop short of the Wallace Branch Basin and the Carr's Creek Basin. (The recent extension of the City limits, to take in the Industrial Education Center, invaded the Lick Creek drainage basin for the first time.)

The Little Buffalo Creek drainage basin drains the whole east side of town and follows the Creek north to the Deep River. The low ridge on the west side of this basin made it necessary to transport the sewage collected on the east side through to the Big Buffalo basin by laying a pipe 33 feet deep under the ridge. (The ridge runs along Hawkins Avenue, and the pipe was laid beneath Chisholm Street.) This action, though expensive, was cheaper than pumping the sewage over the ridge or building a separate treatment plant for the Little Buffalo basin.

Since this was done, all the sewage placed in the Sanford systems has flowed to either the Spring Lane plant, which lies in the Little Buffalo Creek basin, or to the Jonesboro plant, which lies in the Gaster's Creek basin south of Jonesboro.

The solution that was found for the problem of treating sewage from East Sanford does not appear to be practical for the other drainage basins bordering the present sewer system. If each of these basins were to be substantially developed in the future, each would require a complete collection system and treatment plant of its own. If the City of Sanford does not want to find itself committed to paying a very high cost for a given number of additional sewer customers, it must make definite policy decisions concerning when or whether it will be willing to extend service to land development in each of the various drainage basins. If service extension to a particular area is feasible, policy will have to be made on financial terms in order to ensure that persons receiving the benefits of the sewer service extensions pay the extra costs that are involved. (Other considerations besides sewer cost will be involved in policy decisions on this matter.) Drainage basin conditions would be important to the City sewer operation even if no more extensions were made, because sewage production within the area already served is growing and will require new treatment plants at new locations in the near future.

Stream Conditions

It has been shown that the "lay of the land" around Sanford complicates the City's sewage problem. Another natural condition that must be taken into account is the amount of water that flows in the streams near the City.